

REPLY

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 2, 5 and 10 for various informalities. The claims have been amended to obviate the Examiner's objection.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Sakoske et al. The Examiner also rejected claims 2-4 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Will et al.

The Examiner further rejected claims 2-10 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's prior art in view of Nieda.

Sakoske et al discloses a fluorescent lamp with a tubularly-shaped light transmissive glass shield surrounding the electrode. The glass shield shields the interior surface of the envelope from material ejected from the electrode.

Will et al discloses a fluorescent lamp with an electrode surrounding by a metallic guard. A conductive path is established between the metallic guard and a conductor supplying voltage to the electrode. The electrical connection between the guard and the filament electrode established by the conductor increases the effective area of the electrode when it is positively biased, and operating as an anode. This reduces the anode fall and consequently the power required for lamp operation.

Nieda discloses a discharge tube with an arc discharge electrode surrounded by a cup-shaped glow discharge electrode. The glow discharge electrode may be formed from a pipe of aluminum, nickel, iron, or any other suitable material. The blackening of the glass tube is prevented so that the lifetime of the discharge tube is prolonged.

The claims have been amended to obviate the Examiner's rejection. The present invention is directed to fluorescent tanning lamps that operate at relatively high current loads, greater than 800 milliamperes. As indicated in the background of the invention on page 2 in the specification, heat generated from the high current load in a tanning lamp often results in shorter lamp life.

The present invention, as now claimed, recites a fluorescent tanning lamp adapted for operating at a current greater than 800 milliamperes in combination with means, attached to said metal cup, for dissipating heat. This means for dissipating heat element attached to the metal cup is not disclosed or suggested in the references cited by the Examiner. The means for dissipating heat helps conduct heat away from the electrode, preventing high temperatures from developing. Support for this can be found in the application on page 7, lines 8-10.

Claim 2 has been similarly amended.

Claim 4 has been further limited to recite that "said means for dispensing heat comprises a bracket, one end of said bracket attached to said metal cup and another end of said bracket attached to said electrode support."

Claim 5 has been amended to recite an L-shaped cup support having a width substantially greater than a diameter of said electrode support and capable of conducting heat away from said electrode and dissipating the heat.

Accordingly, the present invention, as now claimed, recites additional structure not disclosed or suggested in the prior art cited by the Examiner. The prior art cited by the Examiner is related to fluorescent lamps in general and is not necessarily applicable to fluorescent **tanning** lamps requiring **high current loads**. The high current loads in fluorescent tanning lamps place additional stresses on the electrode structure that shorten the life of fluorescent tanning lamps. It has been found that by attaching means for dissipating heat to the metal cup shield, the life of a fluorescent tanning lamp can be greatly extended.

There is no suggestion in the prior art cited by the Examiner that suggests using an L-shaped bracket having a width substantially greater than a diameter of said electrode support for conducting heat away from the electrode and dissipating it. The only disclosure of a structurally similar device is found in Nieda in Fig. 5. However, after reviewing the Nieda reference as

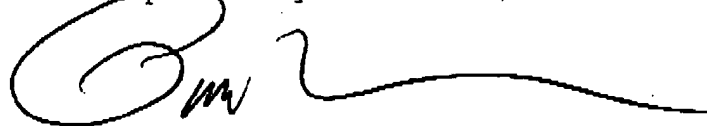
09/801,818

a whole, it becomes quite evident that the apparently similar structure is really something quite different and is used for an entirely different purpose. The shaped element 11, illustrated in Fig. 5 of Nieda, is a getter member that is used for absorbing gases. Nieda, col. 3, lines 21-30. Additionally, the getter member 11 is bent and welded to the lead wire 3 and is not attached to the cup shape glow discharge electrode 5. As the getter member 11 disclosed in Nieda is being used for a completely different purpose, there would be no motivation whatsoever for one skilled in the art to make the combination advocated by the Examiner.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the present application and indicate allowable subject matter.

It is noted that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed with the application and that a copy of the considered Information Disclosure Statement submitted by Applicant was not included with the Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul A. Fattibene
Reg. No. 31,694

2480 Post Road
Southport, CT 06890
Tel. 203-255-4400
Fax 203-259-0033

June 27, 2003

FAX RECEIVED

JUN 27 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800